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CHILDREN'S READING

The modern school teacher hands out an arithmetic book in one hand and a standard novel in the other. Teachers' conventions have much to say about inculcating a taste for good reading. A ninth grade boy who was visiting here the other day said that in his school they had to read *Oliver Twist*, in a week. Then they had to write a composition about it. In many schools books like Cooper's novels are substituted for the old time reading books.

In many ways this works well. Children become familiar with the printed page. They read easily and get in the habit of using newspapers and books regularly. In this they acquire a superiority to many of their elders.

There are a great many people doing excellent work in the world who never look into a book. They buy magazines that advertise easy reading. Books look too formidable. This works against mental alertness and breadth of intelligence. The schools are doing their best to avoid turning out this type of mind.

In some cases this emphasis leads children to read too much. Many boys spend most of their spare time over story papers. They are absorbed in the improbable adventures of impossible heroes, becoming little dreamers. Instead of doing things themselves, they give attention to how their favorite characters did things. This makes them mere spectators in the game of childhood. It is a passive life, and not merely dull initiative, but may impair health and eyesight.

Here is a great problem for the teacher. The bookish boy needs to be drawn in the direction of sport and hand work. The boy of non-intellectual tastes needs to become intimately familiar with the printed page. The ideal school is the one where this distinction is recognized and the tasks are fitted to the individual pupil.

THE FOREIGN LOAN AND THE STOCK MARKET

Awaiting positive developments in regard to the Anglo-French loan, the stock market has been narrow and somewhat heavy. Certain specialties and war stocks have, however, advanced new high prices being recorded in special instances, while the undertone of speculation continues bullish. It is recognized, however, that with such an important and even epoch making financial operation as the loan to the country's chief customers still in a nebulous stage, any pronounced activity in the stock market would be out of place. Bonds have been quiet, and foreign selling of such securities continues to impart a heavy tone to investment issues.

The tentative intimations on the subject of the loan are that it is to be for \$500,000,000, payable in dollars at 5 per cent, free of the English and French income taxes, running for not more than five years, and may be offered to the public at somewhat under par. An important reported provision is that the proceeds shall be devoted to purchases of American grain, foodstuffs and cotton, payments for war munitions to be excluded.

Under the influence of the prospective stabilization of the exchange situation by the creation of a \$500,000,000 credit for England and France, a decided strengthening of exchange rates has occurred. Demand sterling in the latter part of the week has advanced from around 4.65 1/2 to 4.73. Exchange dealings have, in fact, been largely held in abeyance pending the determination of the all important questions involved in the Anglo-French loan.

Bridgeport says there is a scarcity of at least 500 skilled mechanics, and manufacturers are drawing on outside sources. At Detroit automo-

bile plants have large orders ahead, manufacturers of metal products are booked well into the winter, and skilled workers are in demand. Manufacturers at Terre Haute are fairly active. At Louisville demand for whiskey is unusually quiet. At Cincinnati improvement in the shoe industry is a feature and all machinery lines are active. Grand Rapids notes better operations in the furniture industry. Cleveland reports activity in the machinery trade. Houston says sales of lumber exceed outputs of the larger mills. Chattanooga reports that saw mills, dull for eighteen months, are increasing operations and that full time prevails in other industries, while the cattle industry in contiguous territory is growing. Birmingham reports increased inquiries for lumber and that numerous small mills have resumed operations. Incidentally, textile plants are more active than at any time for a year past. One benzol plant is working at full capacity, making crude products at the daily rate of 3,000 gallons, and another concern, now ready to produce, will daily turn out 10,000 gallons of refined benzol. Mobile indicates that river packet traffic on the Mobile, Alabama and Tombigbee rivers continues to increase, and that shipments of cattle have been made from western Florida to Texas. Montgomery reports that demand for cane syrup exceeds the abilities of refiners to fill orders as fast as received. Johnstown and Altoona, Pa., report improvement in coal mining, but at the last named city, where silk mills are busy, car shops are still on short time. Industrial activity rules at Buffalo, with much ore coming down the lakes, while shipments of coal up those waterways are increasing. Pittsburgh reports all around improvement, except in retail lines which are checked by hot weather. Coke is in demand and the price situation, heretofore disappointing, is in better shape. Seattle reports a heavy decrease in the salmon pack.—Brad-streets.

THE FAKING LEGISLATURES

Most of the states get rid of their legislatures as soon as possible. They set a limit on the number of days their lawmakers may remain in session, ranging from forty days in Wyoming to seventy-five days in Tennessee. Sixty days is the favorite Alabama, which does without a legislature for four years, will not permit it to sit more than fifty days even when it meets. There are only sev-

enteen states which allow their legislature to sit as long as they please and, of course, New York is one of them. Since no calamity has befallen the commonwealths which have been dispensing with their legislatures so far as possible, it is likely that the tendency will increase and that annual legislatures and unlimited sessions will become even scarcer than they are.—New York Times.

UTILIZING ALL THE GROUND

This country is so new and so given to thinking of farms as huge areas for cultivation that the idea of utilizing every bit of land as Europeans do, makes little headway here. Intensive cultivation is practiced, but on the outskirts of eastern cities, where some farmers are making good livings by intensive cultivation of small tracts of land; there are other tracts just as good lying idle which at least could be made to yield vegetable supplies for several families and at the same time pay a small rental if cultivated by a few workmen in their spare time. School children's gardens on vacant lots in various sections of this city show the possibilities of such ventures. The old American idea that every family with access to a bit of land should have its own garden was an excellent one. It would be good to have it revived.—New York Tribune.

It has been fully demonstrated that the straw produced on twenty acres of average wheat has a value of \$50 to \$75, when spread on the land in its fertilizing value alone to say nothing of the advantageous effect of the straw as a source of humus. The ashes left after burning have a mineral value of less than five dollars in a straw stack from twenty acres of average wheat, even if the ashes are saved and spread over the land to the best advantage. Why burn the straw piles.—Farm and Fireside.

A magazine devoted to the interests of the tailors' guild, criticizes Mr. Bryan for his slovenly manner of dress. Bill has always stood for free wool, and it was largely through his influence that wool went on the free list in the Underwood tariff law. Having achieved that result, the fact that he is in a perennial state of sartorial collapse seems to be inconsistent.

When a woman is wearing a flock of diamond rings it is not bad form for her to pick her teeth, in a public place.

Stage Set For Power Congress

Utah Delegation Headed by Senator Reed Smoot Will Urge State Control

Portland, Ore., Sept. 20.—Delegates representing thirteen states arrived here today and tonight to attend the Western States Water Power conference which will be in session for three days, beginning tomorrow. Among the arrivals were O. C. Merrill, chief engineer of the United States forest service, and Senator Reed Smoot, heading the Utah delegation.

The conference was called by Governor James Withycombe at the request of the state legislature to furnish out further the question of federal or state control of water power and other national resources that was the subject of a spirited controversy at the conservation congress at Washington, D. C., two years ago. Opponents of the Ferris bill, which provides for government lease of water power sites, to be in a majority at this conference and assert that a protest will be made to Congress against the passage of the measure.

State control of the water power resources of the west as opposed to federal control was urged strongly here tonight by members of the Utah delegation, which includes Governor William Spry, W. D. Beers, state engineer, and E. A. Wedgewood, adjutant general, as well as Senator Smoot. Each went on record as solidly against the Ferris bill.

"We would rather have nothing than what this bill would give us," said Governor Spry at the Multnomah hotel. "Utah started the fight on the Ferris bill and we will continue to fight it."

"We already have had conflicts with the federal government over the water power rights which are inherently vested in the state," and W. D. Beers, state engineer of Utah. "There have been several recent cases where men have filed on water rights with the state at the time filing applications with the government for the reservoir sites, where the government has deliberately ignored the filings granted by the state and has nullified them by giving later applicants the reservoir sites."

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Registration at the U. A. C. Continues With Large Increase

At the close of the second day of registration at the U. A. C. evidence is certain for a banner school year. Practically all students who have made their way up College Hill for this year's scholastic labors are those who are entering upon a new era. Old members of student body will make a large appearance the remainder of this week and henceforth until, it is believed, the largest enrollment in the history of the college is realized. Nearly all counties in the state of any prominence are now represented in praiseworthy numbers.

The domestic science department is receiving its proportion in the number of young women already entered. The school has been many years establishing knowledge regarding the broad and practical opportunities offered for women and now her prestige is so well founded because of service rendered, that young women from all parts of the country arrive to obtain initial intelligence that will aid to evolve them into the home makers of the future.

Class organization was effected on

Thursday, and in all branches of the work everything is in excellent condition.

Wise Rather Than Witty.
Be rather wise than witty, for much wit hath commonly much froth, and it is hard to jest and not sometimes jeer, too, which many times sinks deeper than was intended or expected, and what was designed for mirth ends in sadness.—C. Trenchard.

Conference and State Fair

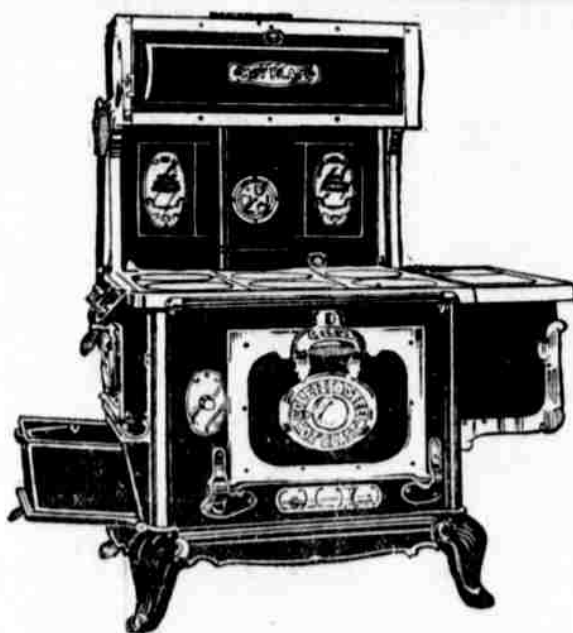
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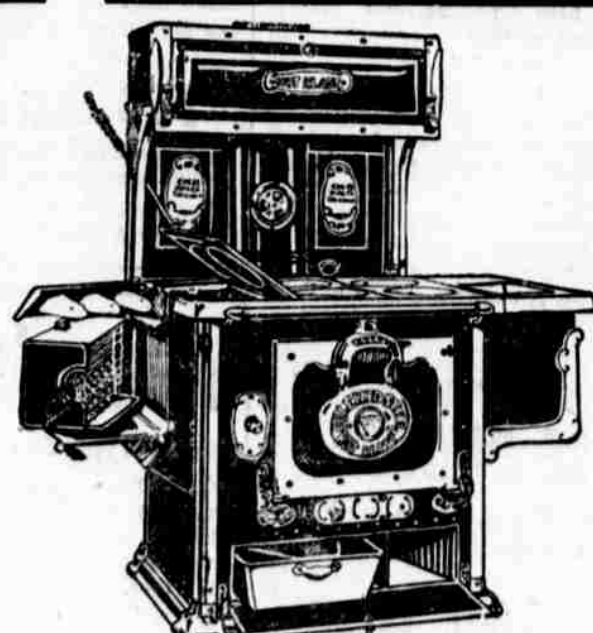
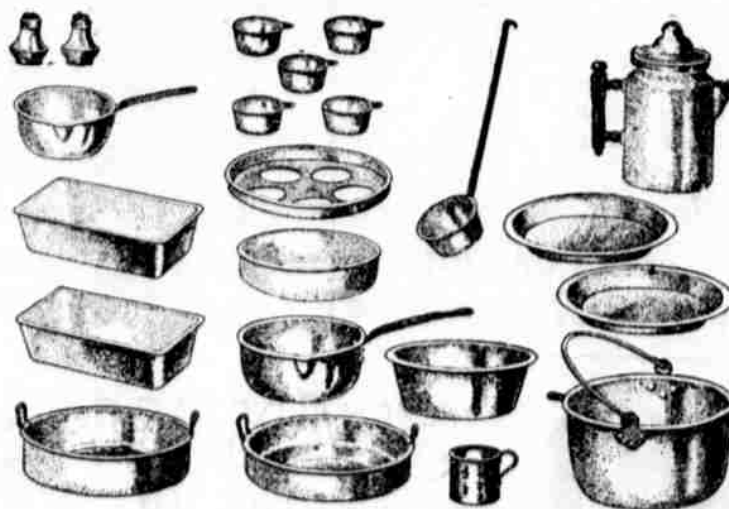
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